

FACTS ABOUT

Automotive Refrigerants: Consumer Information

Do-it-yourself recharging of auto air conditioners in California: A significant source of climate-changing gases

What is the purpose of the program?

The program reduces air pollution by preventing uncontrolled releases of refrigerant and reduces waste going to landfills. The containers feature a self-sealing valve to capture unused refrigerant which is recycled along with the used container materials.

Californians gain these benefits while still being able to charge their own vehicle's air conditioner.

How does this program affect the consumer?

- Consumers must pay a refundable \$10 deposit for each container purchased;
- Sales receipts are necessary to redeem deposits;
- Consumers must safeguard the integrity of the container. Damaging, puncturing or breaching the container could lead to a denial of the refund;
- Consumers have 90 days from date of sale to redeem the \$10 deposits and these must be accompanied by the sales receipt.

Consumers should thoroughly read the instructions on the container and take advantage of educational programs at retailers and online. Brochures and websites are available and include:

- Instructions to identify and repair system leaks;
- Techniques for properly recharging the air conditioner;
- Information on the environmental hazards associated with the refrigerant and risks of overcharging or undercharging AC systems.

The educational brochures are available through the retailers who sell the product. The websites are listed on the product containers which also feature clear instructions in both English and Spanish.

Automobile refrigerant: a potent greenhouse gas

The refrigerant R134a is a highly potent greenhouse gas. A single 12-ounce container has the same climate-changing potential as all the emissions from 150 gallons of gasoline. California's new regulation requires more control over R-134a and its containers to reduce unnecessary releases.

For more information

A consumer video, fact sheet, and additional information are available at: www.arb.ca.gov/cc/hfc-mac/hfcdiy/hfcdiy.htm.

To obtain this document in an alternative format or language, please contact the ARB's Helpline at (800) 242-4450 or at helpline@arb.ca.gov. TTY/TDD/ Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.